

REP 4-1

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13 May 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Assistant Director, Research and Reports
FROM: Chief, Geographic Research
SUBJECT: GRA Activity Report for the Month of April 1959

A. Research and Technical Support Activity

1. Several activities of the Geographic Area centered around support and servicing of requests on Tibet and China. A substantial contribution on the Tibetan-China background paper -- concentrating on "Land and People" and "Economy and Transportation" -- was prepared at the direction of the DD/I for utilization in a report for the DCI. There was cooperation with S/TR, ERA, in the development of a project for the DD/I on Logistical Study of Chicom Supply Routes to Tibet.

The Geography Division contribution to NIE 11-6-59, Soviet Science and Technology, was rewritten in expanded form prior to submission to ONE. Two Section 19's of Chapter I of the NIS and one Map and Chart Appraisal component of the Chapter I Annual were completed and delivered to OBI during the month. Two contributions were made to OCI for use in the OCI Weekly and Daily publications.

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5. The number of requests serviced by the Reference Branch of the Map Library Division during April exceeded the total of any previous month; there was a heavy concentration of interest on Tibet and Latin America.

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3. In a memorandum dated 27 April 1959 to the NIS Chapter IX Coordinator, the AD/BI quoted excerpts from a CINCPAC letter concerning the maintenance of the Chapters IX for Iran and Sudan, as well as for eight additional Chapters IX that were completed prior to FY 1953. Each of the areas listed in the memorandum was considered at the scheduling meeting of the Chapter IX Subcommittee held 19 May 1958 and will automatically be reconsidered at the next meeting which will be held within the next two months. Special consideration was given to Iran at the last scheduling, but was rejected in favor of Thailand.

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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5. Considerable effort was expended in planning for a project to review the territorial and sovereignty problems of the Arctic in light of recent technological, military and legal developments. A statement of the scope of the problem and a proposed outline have been submitted to Chief, Geography Division. Discussions with Department of State officials have indicated they are enthusiastic about intelligence interest in the nature of the problem and expressed unqualified support. A letter of endorsement for such a project is being prepared.

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7. The Cartography Division has placed a request upon TSS/TSL to take over the investigation of electro-luminescent panels to develop prototype equipment. The Division has been working for some time trying to develop a suitable substitute for large, bulky light tables for drafting and compilation work and it is believed the luminescent panel development has reached a stage where technical knowledge and competence superior to that available in the Division is needed to perfect these panels for our use. This does not involve exchange of funds.

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D. Problems

1. Cartography Division is confronted annually with the problem of increasing demands for cartographic support resulting from an end-of-the-year rush to meet schedules. Every effort will be made to keep abreast of commitments, but the Division is blocked by an overload of work in the Reproduction and Services Division which, in turn, affects our ability to meet our deadlines. Cartography Division personnel have been reassigned from developmental laboratory work to assist in the drafting section and in support work in the Chart and Graph Section; this will help to meet commitments within the Division. However, the Reproduction problem referred to above seems insoluble in the face of constantly growing demands for reproduction services throughout CIA, and the apparent unwarranted overaggressiveness of some program priorities.

2. An unusual amount of overtime has been and will continue to be required to meet the NIS FY 1959 commitments before 1 July. This was anticipated, however, since most of the Chapters IX for this year are large, the staff has not been complete, and the preparation of the Chapter I Annuals has reduced the time available for coordination of Chapters IX and Sections 19. The addition of the new member to the Coordination Staff should prevent a recurrence of this end-of-the-fiscal-year pressure in FY 1960.

3. Special summer help is required in cutting back and weeding out the Western Hemisphere files in the Geography Division. This is a backlog task too large for present personnel to accomplish, especially in view of other more pressing duties. If the files can be weeded out and stabilized, they would become manageable and could be efficiently handled on a day-to-day basis.

4. It is important that the planned reduction in translation services should not reduce the present program of translation and transliteration of bibliographic information on maps needed for proper cataloging.

E. Miscellaneous

1. Chief/G welcomed several Geographic Area personnel into the Career Staff during the month.



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- 1 - AD/RR
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- 3 - D/GG
- 2 - D/GC
- 2 - D/GL
- 2 - Ch/c

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